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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

Katsuhiro KOIKE

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Appl. No. To be assigned

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For: OPTICAL ELEMENT, OPTICAL PICKUP, AND OPTICAL INFORMATION  
RECORDING/REPRODUCING APPARATUS

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September 19, 2006

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination,  
please amend the application as follows: